


PUBLIC HEALTH ACT,
1875.



ANNUAL REPORT

ON

THE HEALTH

OF THE

WHITWORTH DISTRICT COUNCIL

DURING 1897.



—BY—

ALEXANDER WELSH, M.D., Whitworth,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



Whitworth:

HOWARD, PRINTER, ETC., MARKET STREET.

THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Consists of the following Members:

CHAIRMAN—MR. WILLIAM MYCOCK.

MESSRS. THOMAS SMITHSON,

WILLIAM LAW,

B. F. STUTTARD,

WILLIAM HOLT,

JAMES WILKINSON.

Whitworth Urban District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1897.

GENTLEMEN :

I have the honour to submit to your consideration the Annual Health Report of the Whitworth Urban District Council, according to instructions received from the Local Government Board.

The area of the Whitworth Urban District Council is 6,200 acres.

The estimated population for the year is 10,100.

BIRTHS.

During the year there were 230 births registered, viz. males 127. females 103 ; giving a birth rate of 22.7 per 1000. The rate for preceding years being—

1884	26.3	1891	25.2
1885	26.3	1892	23.0
1886	28.2	1893	24.1
1887	22.4	1894	23.3
1888	20.6	1895	20.4
1889	23.0	1896	21.5
1890	21.0	1897	22.7

The natural increase of the population by excess of births over deaths is 51, for the year 1896 it was 36.

DEATHS.

During the year 179 deaths were registered, viz.: males 97, females 82, giving a death rate of 16.7 per 1000. The rate for preceding years being as under:—

1884	14.6	1891	26.7
1885.....	16.5	1892.....	16.7
1886.....	17.8	1893.....	18.1
1887.....	16.5	1894.....	14.3
1888.....	17.6	1895.....	18.4
1889.....	13.8	1896.....	18.0
1890.....	16.0	1897.....	16.7

The following table gives the deaths during the quarters, tabulated as under:—

	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897
First quarter	43	42	57	46	42
Second quarter.....	39	33	54	45	40
Third quarter	45	28	31	39	43
Fourth quarter	50	37	44	52	54
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	177	140	186	182	179

The following table gives the age at which death occurred:—

Under 1 year	48	} 64
One and under 5 years.....	16	
Five years and under 15 years	12	} 115
Fifteen years and under 25 years	8	
Twenty-five years and under 65 years	59	
Sixty-five and upwards	36	
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	179	179

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

We have had 48 deaths under One year.

The proportion of deaths under One year to 1000 births is 208 6.

The following table shows the deaths under One year for previous years:—

1886	42	1892	34
1887.....	39	1893	42
1888.....	46	1894.....	29
1889	51	1895	37
1890	37	1896	39
1891.....	59	1897.....	48

CAUSES OF MORTALITY.

Scarlatina 4, Croup 3, Erysipelas 1, Measles 8, Whooping Cough 2, Diarrhœa 2, Phthisis 10, Broncho-Pneumonia 45, Heart Disease 13, Injuries 3, other diseases 88.—179.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

The Zymotic death rate for the past year is very satisfactory.

The epidemic of Measles, and its natural mortality, has increased to a great extent, the zymotic death rate. However, if we exclude the death rate from measles, we have the satisfaction of being able to record one of the lowest rates since the formation of the Council, the rate being 1 58 per 1000. The rate for preceding years being as under:

1882	3 5	1890..	0.6
1883	1.6	1891	3.07
1884	2.8	1892	1.2
1885	1.4	1893	1.8
1886... ..	2 05	1894	0 51
1887... ..	3.01	1895	1 4
1888.....	1.2	1896.....	2.2
1889	1 8	1897	1 58

SMALL-POX.

I have great pleasure in being able to state that this disease has been absent

MEASLES.

Ceased to be a notifiable disease after April 30th, 1893.

We have been visited with a severe epidemic of this disease during the past year, but considering the number of children affected, the mortality has been very favourable, eight deaths only having been registered. One in Facit in February; one in Facit in June; one in Whitworth, one in Facit, and one in Shawforth in July; and one in Healey, one in Whitworth, and one in Shawforth in August.

Acting on the Official Copy of the Local Government Board, viz.: "Memorandum prepared in the Medical Department on the circumstances under which the closing of Public Elementary Schools, or the exclusion therefrom of particular children may be required in order to prevent the spread of disease." I had the honour to present to their Lordships a "Special Report" of this epidemic, to which I would again call your attention.

The following notes from my Diary may be interesting in connection with the spread of Measles and infantile diseases generally. "June 22nd, 1897, Diamond Jubilee Day." Notes on Measles, and how spread.

"Visited E. R., three children sick, found door locked, gone to watch the procession"

"Visited G. H., two sick, found door locked, gone to watch the procession."

"Called in the evening to J. S., very ill, threatened with croup or diphtheria. Had walked that day in the procession. Morning visit found throat symptoms better, but covered with rash"

"Visited J. T. C. on the 23rd, suffering from measles. Had been in the procession yesterday."

I am glad to state that we are at present, and have been for some time, entirely free from this disease.

SCARLATINA.

Fifty-one cases have been notified during the year, and four deaths registered :—One in Shawforth in March, One in Whitworth in April One in Whitworth in June, One in Whitworth in September.

With one or two exceptions the disease has been of a mild character. In corroboration of this general statement I find the following entry in my diary, “Jan. 11th, 1897, Visited B. S. and consider this case ought to be cancelled.”

I have personally investigated nearly every case, and have been in constant communication with the Schoolmasters in the various districts

The last case notified of this disease was on the 26th of August, 1897. In connection with this case I find the following entry in my diary, “Visited on the 29th, found the house closed, mother had gone with sick baby to visit her sister at a neighbouring farm house.”

WHOOPIING COUGH.

Two deaths have been registered from this disease, both in Shawforth Ward.

CROUP AND DIPHTHERIA.

There is a marked decrease in the number of cases and mortality for the year. Three deaths having been registered from Croup, one in Whitworth Ward in May, Two in Shawforth Ward in August and December respectively. The sporadic nature of the disease made it difficult to say definitely what the cause was due to.

It is satisfactory to observe that during the past year not a single case of Diphtheria has been reported.

TYPHOID FEVER.

For the first time for many years we hopefully notice the complete absence of this frequently recurring disease.

DIARRHŒA.

Two deaths have been registered during the year, one in Whitworth Ward in September, and one in Facit Ward in October, both cases being under five years of age, and due to defective nutrition.

ERYSIPELAS.

Twelve cases, three less than the previous year, have been notified, and one death registered. As in past years many of the cases were of a very mild character.

PHTHISIS.

Ten deaths have been registered, three in Healey Ward, one in Whitworth Ward, three in Facit Ward, and three in Shawforth Ward.

Whitworth Ward this year compares favourably with the other Wards as the following table shows :

	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897
Healey ...	2	4	1	2	2	1	3
Whitworth	10	8	3	6	6	1	1
Facit ...	6	5	4	4	5	3	3
Shawforth ..	2	2	2	1	1	2	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	20	19	10	13	14	7	10

PNEUMONIA AND BRONCHITIS.

Forty-five deaths have been registered, an increase of 8 on the preceding year. The following table gives the number of deaths since the year 1887 :

1887	45	1892	40
1888	43	1893	43
1889	44	1894	35
1890	40	1895	45
1891	95	1896	37
1897		45	

HEART DISEASE.

Caused 13 deaths, an increase of 6 on the preceding year For preceding years as under :

1887	6	1892	8
1888	14	1893	7
1889	11	1894	5
1890	12	1895	11
1891	8	1896	7
1897		13	

SYSTEMATIC INSPECTION AND PROCEDURE.

I have made the usual general and special inspection of the district, and matters requiring attention have been reported to the Inspector of Nuisances. I have also attended the Monthly Committee and General Meetings.

REMOVAL OF NIGHT SOIL.

Is still continued on the "Pail System," and I have not received any notice of complaint.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

I am pleased to report that it has not been necessary to use the temporary hospital for any infectious cases during the past year.

COW SHEDS AND DAIRIES.

The Cow sheds and Dairies have been inspected periodically, and we have found farm buildings and utensils generally all that could be desired.

During the year, I am glad to state, that in no case have we been able to trace the milk as a suspicious or probable cause of infectious disease.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Have also been inspected and found satisfactory, all being supplied with abundance of water.

WATER SUPPLY.

Is chiefly from private wells. There is a gradual but progressive demand for an increased supply from the Rochdale Corporation

ANALYSIS.

It has not been found necessary to undertake any analysis during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALEXANDER WELSH, M.D.

Whitworth Urban District Council.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTOR'S REPORT,

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER, 1897.

The area of the district is 6,200 acres.

The population in 1891 was 9,766.

The principal work of the year has been the completion of the Sewage Works, which were opened in June, and which are now in full operation, treating a very considerable portion of the Sewage.

The connection of the house drains and branch sewers to the new intercepting sewers has also been pushed on, and is still going on ; the final completion will be a work of time.

The disposal of excreta from the pail closets is not quite satisfactory, the work is done by the Council's own men, but the difficulty is to dispose of it without creating a nuisance.

Plans are now before the Council for a system of water carriage to convey it to the Sewage Works, to be treated with the sewage sludge ; this work will soon be taken in hand

There have been 14 new houses built during the year, and we have now 22 " Duckett's Waste Water Closets " in operation, and so far they have worked satisfactorily.

Twenty-seven complaints of nuisances, mostly from defective drains, have been made during the year ; they were all promptly attended to and in no case has it been necessary to take legal proceedings

The slaughter houses and lodging houses have been visited from time to time, and if any defects have been found they have been remedied

We collect on an average 20 tons of excreta, and 35 tons of house and other refuse per week, and it finds constant employment for six men and three horses.

The closets and ash tubs are emptied weekly

FREDERICK RODLEY.

SURVEYOR.

TABLE OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1897,

—IN THE—

WHITWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

Classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics, public institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.								MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards.		1 Smallpox.	2 Scarlatina.	3 Diphtheria.	4 Membranous Creup.	FEVERS.						10 Cholera.	11 Erysipelas.	12 Measles.	13 Whooping Cough.	14 Diarrhoea. and Dysentry.	15 Rheumatic Fever.	16 Phthisis.	17 Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	18 Heart Disease.	19 *	20 Injuries.	21 All Other Diseases.	22 TOTAL																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				
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* The heading of column 19 is left blank for the insertion of Influenza, or any other disease which it may be thought desirable to record.

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